



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, October 14, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

A meeting was held in Orlando, Florida last week, October 5-6, 2004, for the development of a Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM) National Biological Control Program Action Plan. A potential outbreak of the PHM could occur next spring and summer based on the recent discovery of infested hibiscus potted plants being shipped from a Florida nursery in Homestead to 36 States in early spring and summer of 2004. A total of 17 States in the Southern U.S. are most susceptible to establishment of this mealybug pest, and a total of 11 of these States were the recipients of these infested hibiscus plants. The National Plant Board, Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, Industry, State Departments of Agriculture, USDA, ARS and APHIS, PPQ and the University of Florida were in attendance. Trade issues were discussed including interstate and intrastate shipments and notification of trading partners. In addition regulatory issues were discussed, potential quarantines, nursery shipment protocol and the implementation of a national biological control program, which will need additional financial support for in sectary operations, release and evaluation of natural enemies and survey activities. A recently developed PHM sex pheromone trap is presently being refined and limited numbers will be ready for use in the field by next spring, and a contract for commercial production of the lures will be in place by summer of 2005. Contact Dale.E.Meyerdirk@usda.gov for more information.

Source: Dale Meyerdirk

Sudden Oak Death

Plant Protection and Quarantine continues to refine and discuss the details of its draft *Phytophthora ramorum* strategic plan and amended Federal Order. When finalized, the plan and order will address concerns about the PPQ *P. ramorum* emergency response that have been expressed by several states and industry. Several

conference calls have been held with industry representatives and other stakeholders to clarify the provisions of the proposed order and to address their concerns.

Four additional nurseries in Oregon were confirmed to have *P. ramorum* present. All were being tested as part of Oregon's clean stock program. The APHIS Confirmed Nursery Protocol has been implemented at these sites.

Two plants will be added to the associated plant list, *Photinia fraseri* (Red tip or Fraser's photinia) and *Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* (Alleghany or Willowood Viburnum). The *Photinia* was reported to be a host from Poland and the *Viburnum* was found positive at one of the Oregon nurseries that tested positive this week.

PPQ Riverdale's *P. ramorum* response team will move out of the APHIS Emergency Operations Center by the middle of next week.

With the new Oregon finds this week, As of October 14, 2004, the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey is 163 in 21 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina and one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (53), CO (1), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (2), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (18), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).

APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are complete in 21 of 23 participating Western Region States – Hawaii is not conducting surveys – (AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, IA, ID, KS, LA, MO, MT, NE, NM, ND, NV, OK, OR, SD, UT, WA, and WY) and 28 participating Eastern Region states, including Puerto Rico (AL, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, TN, WI). The southern states that suspended their national survey activities until weather conditions were more conducive to *P. ramorum* symptom expression are restarting their surveys. As of



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October 14, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 3,095 sites and have collected 50,820 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive.

Source: Jim Writer

NISC Staff Attends *Weed Across Borders Tour*

August 25, 2004, Anna Cherry, the NISC Public Affairs Coordinator attended the *Weeds Across Borders Tour*, which was sponsored by Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board, in Okanogan, WA. The tour included sites in Washington State and British Columbia, Canada featuring common crupina, musk thistle, yellow toad flax, purple loosestrife, and other invasive plants. Information was presented on integrated pest management programs that incorporated tools such as biocontrol, pesticides and mechanical removal (hand pulling) into an overall management program. Anna Cherry was one of several speakers. She gave a presentation on the work of NISC and provided other background materials. Also attending were invasive plant experts such as Randy Westbrooks (USGS), Gina Ramos (BLM), Janet Clarke from the Center for Invasive Plant Management and Jennifer Vollmer from BASF.

Source: Al Tasker

S. 144 Forwarded to President

According to a News Release from the Idaho Congressional Delegation, (Idaho Senator Larry Craig), S.144, the Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004, passed the Senate unanimously, and is now headed to the President for his signature. Backed by the entire Idaho congressional delegation (and others), the bill would establish in the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture a program to provide assistance to eligible weed management agencies to respond to noxious weeds problems. It was only relatively recently that the Secretary of Agriculture was given primary authority for the actions to be taken in the bill. It has not yet been received by the President, but after it is, he will have 10 days to sign or veto.

Source: Al Tasker

Emerald Ash Borer

Michigan:

Six (6) emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae found in ash trees in an apartment complex in Petoskey, Emmet County, MI were confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on September 28, 2004. The specimens were collected from established trees planted 2-3 years ago. Eleven of twelve ash trees in the complex plantings show serious damage. Judging by older galleries and partial healing seen around some of the bark cracks, the infestation is at least two years old. Within 5/10 of a mile from this site are a nature conservancy area with a very large ash component in the natural forest and a commercial nursery that has previously handled ash nursery stock.

One (1) EAB larva was found in Pentwater, Oceana County, MI, and confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on October 1, 2004. The larva was found on established ash trees in Charles Mears State Park, Site 53.

Source: Deborah McPartlan

Asian Longhorned Beetle

New Jersey - Carteret/Woodbridge Township:

Delimiting surveys continued this week with a total of 11,623 trees inspected. Our delimiting surveys are now concentrating to the west of core. Until this week all the infested trees have been detected in the Borough of Carteret and the Avenel Section of Woodbridge Township. Early in the week, the Forest Service climbers detected an infested silver maple with about 10 oviposition sites in the City of Rahway NJ. The infested tree in Rahway is only a few city blocks from the border of Carteret and Woodbridge Twp, NJ. A total of 405 infested trees have been detected to date. The City of Rahway posted on their web site information about the asian longhorned beetle infestation and restrictions on wood material moving out of the quarantine area.

Eight new compliance agreements were executed this week, for a total of 40 companies under compliance. A new disposal site for woody debris originating from the quarantined area was approved this week and placed under compliance agreement.

Source: Christine Markham